



# Otsego County Press Release: Otsego County Announces Scaled Back Plan for Jail Proposal

August 13, 2021

Otsego County has been working diligently on a “Plan B” after the Otsego County Justice Complex proposal was not passed on the May 4, 2021 ballot.

**A new jail remains the highest priority of the Otsego County Board of Commissioners for safety and security reasons. This need has not gone away.**

We’ve heard your voices. Otsego County professionals and elected officials engaged in meetings, conducted a survey, and received extensive feedback from the community as to why the proposed Justice Complex was not supported. The consistent feedback identified two main reasons:

- (1) the project was too big/too expensive, and
- (2) many community members understand the need and would support a millage for a new jail, but not necessarily an entire complex (the former Justice Complex proposal included a new jail/sheriff office plus a second story devoted to the court system and prosecutor offices).

In response to this feedback, a Plan B has been developed that has nearly cut the proposed building in half and entirely removes the “complex concept” from the millage request. **The new millage proposal is ONLY for a Jail/Sheriff Office.**

Additionally, the original 120-bed proposal with a shell built to expand to 178 beds, has been reduced to a **96-bed jail with no expansion shell.**

The previously proposed Justice Complex building would have been an approximately 60,000 square foot facility. The new millage proposal for strictly a Jail/Sheriff Office facility is planned to be approximately half of that, **31,000 square feet.**

The building cost of the Justice Complex was projected to be an estimated \$30 million. For the Jail/Sheriff Office, the building cost is estimated at **\$15 million.**

The operations component of the millage request has been **reduced by nearly 20%,** to reflect the reduction in the number of jail beds in the millage request.

The proposed 20-year millage request has been reduced from 1.95 mills to **1.15 mills.**

**The Otsego County Board of Commissioners approved ballot language to ask the voters to approve a 1.15 mill request for a new Otsego County Jail/Sheriff Office, to be on the November 2, 2021 ballot.**

\*\*\*See page two of this document for a side-by-side comparison of the previous Justice Complex proposal to the new Jail/Sheriff Office proposal.